

November 19, 2021

Dear staff and students,

Additional screening requirements related to symptoms, for attendance at school are now being implemented. The rationale for these additional public health measures is to prevent cases in schools and avoid class cohorts' dismissal. It is intended to enable more students to stay in school. Our case and contact data demonstrate that majority of our cases were symptomatic in school and their symptoms were predominantly rhinitis related (nasal congestion and runny nose).

Therefore, we are tightening the symptom-based exclusion of students. We want students and staff to stay home if they are sick or have any symptoms of illness and seek COVID-19 testing or assessment from their health care provider if needed.

Students and staff should continue to follow the provincial screener, as it includes additional information related to travel, however it only includes the 5 most common symptoms of COVID-19. **In KFL&A, we are asking students and staff to also screen for symptoms on the extended symptom list included below, which is over and above those listed on the daily school screener.**

*Extended symptom list for student and staff screening in KFL&A region*

Symptoms listed on Provincial School Screener	KFL&A Public Health Additional Symptoms List
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever (37.8°C/100°F) and/or chills</li> <li>• Cough or barking cough</li> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> <li>• Decrease or loss of taste or smell</li> <li>• Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea</li> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Muscle aches and pain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sore throat</li> <li>• Difficulty swallowing</li> <li>• Runny or stuffy nose</li> <li>• Abdominal pain</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Conjunctivitis (pink eye)</li> <li>• Decreased or lack of appetite</li> </ul>

**Staff, Students, or Visitors with Symptoms:**

Any staff, student or visitor that does not pass the screening procedures, this includes both the provincial school screener and the additional symptoms list, should not attend school, and should book an appointment at an assessment centre as soon as possible. The student or staff with symptoms must not attend school until they are symptom free for 24 hours or their symptoms are improving AND they receive a negative COVID-19 test result or an alternative diagnosis from a health care professional.

**The COVID-19 assessment centres offer a less invasive swab test for children to help ease the testing experience for them. Please be sure to request a less invasive swab for your child's COVID-19 test.**

**Other People in the Household:**

If a student or staff has one of the symptoms listed on **the provincial school screener**, **all household members that are NOT fully vaccinated are required to isolate** until the person with symptoms receives a negative COVID-19 test result or an alternative diagnosis from a health care professional.

Household members who are asymptomatic and live with a person who has **one or more symptoms from the KFL&A Public Health additional symptom list, not the provincial symptom screener**, **do not need to isolate** while the symptomatic person is getting tested and waiting for the negative result.

Thank you,

Dr. Piotr Oglaza

Medical Officer of Health at KFL&A Public Health